MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 MAY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Military Situation--According to Jerusalem radio, an IDF spokesman announced that after a Libyan force in the Ad-Damur area south of Beirut fired SAM-9 missiles at an Israeli reconnaissance flight, Israeli planes responded by attacking and destroying the missile battery and a Palestinian base. In a further report, the radio said the air force had destroyed four SAM-9 missile launchers containing 16 missiles as well as a number of military vehicles during the afternoon raid. According to the Voice of Lebanon, the Israelis destroyed two Palestinian naval bases, a rocket base and a number of artillery and radar installations. Confirming the raid, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said the Israeli planes hit civilian targets in the Ad-Damur and An-Na'imah areas. It denied that SAM-7 and SAM-9 missiles were fired at Israeli reconnaissance planes, pointing out that these missiles cannot reach the altitude at which such planes fly. In an interview with the radio, a Palestinian military official said 20 to 25 Israeli planes, including Phantoms, participated in the attack, which continued for several hours. Citing a Palestinian spokesman, AFP reported that 25 people were killed and 100 wounded in the raid. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, four Libyans were among the dead. Beirut radio said SAM-9 missiles were fired unsuccessfully at the raiding aircraft. Voice of Palestine said another Israeli air raid during the evening was directed at the Al-'Urqub area as well as at Ad-Damur and An-Na'imah.

Toward midnight Israeli naval units landed in the An-Na'imah area, killing seven persons, Beirut radio reported. Earlier the Voice of Palestine reported Israeli artillery shelling in the south, while IDF radio said the Palestinians exchanged fire with Maj Sa'd Haddad's Christian militia. The Voice of Palestine also reported that Israeli infantry have moved into the border strip town of Al-Qulay'ah. In the capital, Beirut radio reported renewed artillery exchanges and the Voice of Palestine said a car bomb killed two people and wounded five. Voice of Lebanon radio said Syrian artillery fired at the remnants of Qa'ar-rim and at Zahlah. According to IDF radio, two Syrian divisions along the front line of the Golan Heights are now on a high state of alert. The radio also said a Syrian armored brigade is poised on the Lebanese border ready to reinforce troops inside Lebanon where the Syrians have made preparations to absorb large artillery forces.

Begin Interview--In an IDF radio interview Israeli Prime Minsiter Menahem Begin said the Libyans in Lebanon "got what was coming to them." Asked if the Israeli raid on the Libyan missiles had implications for the Syrian missiles deployed in Lebanon, Begin said: "For the moment, we have destroyed the Libyan missiles; after this, we will see."

Tzipori Remarks--Jerusalem radio quoted Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori as saying that an "unpleasant" military reinforcement process is occurring in Arab countries and that the Syrian state of alert has been stepped up. According to the radio, Tzipori said Israeli forces are prepared to give a suitable response. Questioned by IDF radio on how long Israel will be able to wait while the Syrians continue their state of alert Tzipori responded that priority must be given to any chance of a political compromise.

Palestinian Comment--Reacting to the Israeli raids in Lebanon, a Palestinian revolution command military spokesman, in a statement broadcast by the Voice of Palestine, said Israel's latest aggression stems from the plot hatched by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib during his recent tour of the Middle East. He said the raids confirm that Israel is preparing for a wide-scale aggression against southern Lebanon. He also noted that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat presided over two emergency meetings of the executive and higher military committees in the wake of the Israeli activity and in order to adopt measures to confront it.

Butrus-Khaddam Meeting--Beirut radio reported that Lebanese Foreign Minsiter Fu'ad Butrus and his Syrian counterpart, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, held talks at the Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) headquarters in Shtawrah on the general situation in Lebanon and the work of the quadrapartite committee formed to follow up the resolutions of the Tunis conference. The meeting was attended by ADF Commander Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib. The radio quoted Butrus as saying that he and Khaddam decided to contact the other members of the committee to fix a date for the committee meeting. Butrus also said U.S. special envoy Habib's mission has frozen the situation to a certain extent and that perhaps there will be an opening for some positive developments.

Saudi Message--Damascus television reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received the deputy commander of the Saudi National Guard, who presented a message from Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Syrian Comment--In a commentary on the Lebanese crisis, Damascus radio said U.S. diplomacy has found itself stuck during the past 3 weeks because the current crisis is a result of Israeli attacks against Lebanon and not of Syrian missiles. It maintained that diplomatic efforts will not be in the least effective if they do not aim at curbing Israel's aggressive policy.

Egyptian-Isaeli Talks

Jerusalem and Cairo radios reported that Israeli Prime Minister Begin and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat will meet in Ofira on 4 June to discuss bilaterial relations and the situation in Lebanon. According to Jerusalem television, Israeli Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres and President as-Sadat will meet on 7 June in Al-'Arish. In an interview carried live by Jerusalem television, Peres said that Prime Minister Begin would be better off waiting until after the Israeli elections before meeting with As-Sadat and that Begin's meeting is intended for electoral purposes. Questioned on the issues he will discuss with As-Sadat, Peres said he will reiterate Israel's basic positions on Mideast issues and assess the general situation in the area.

Sinai Peacekeeping Force

According to Cairo radio, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Egypt, Israel and the United States have reached agreement on most questions concerning the establishment of a Sinai multinational peacekeeping force but that the problem of financing hs not been solved and will be discussed further at the next tripartite meeting in Tel Aviv on 9 June. MENA reported that the heads of all three delegations expressed optimism at a Cairo press conference about reaching an agreement.

Jordan

Amman radio reported that, at a Kiev dinner held in his honor by the chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium, King Husayn said his talks with Soviet officials were characterized by frankness, seriousness and accuracy and were aimed at determining the best course for confronting the challenges facing the Arab nation. The radio said the king praised Arab-Soviet friendship and the Soviet Union's support for Arab rights.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported that Iranian forces have penetrated up to 7 km inside Iraqi territory at some points along the western border and that Iraqi forces have retreated more than 17 km in some areas. It also said Iranian units besieged the Bani Banuk garrison in Iraq, foiling Iraqi attempts to break the siege. The radio said one Iraqi helicopter was downed in the operation. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, transmitted by INA, said the Iraqi Armed Forces downed seven Iranian Phantoms in the southern sector and raided Iranian positions in the Paveh region of Iran's Kermanshah Province.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GOVERNMENT ISSUES DECREE REORGANIZING MINISTRY

LD281830 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 May 81

[28 May decree issued by the Revolutionary Council Presidium]

[Text] Kabul, 28 May--Due to the deep respect for and serious observance of the historic, national, cultural and religious traditions of the noble people of Afghanistan and to the true will of the nationalities, tribes and clans of our country, and in order to create facilities for the unity of all toilers of the country and to defend the national independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and popular order, the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council, observing article 44 of the DRA Basic Principles, has decided that:

1. The Ministry of Border and Tribal Affairs of the DRA be reorganized into the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs.

2. A publicity organ of the Afghan tribal supreme council be established within the framework of the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs of the DRA.

3. The DRA Council of Ministers--that is, the government--is dutybound to approve the organization and budget of the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs.

4. The Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs is charged, in cooperation with the DRA Ministry of Justice, with preparing the regulations of the ministry as soon as possible, and, according to law, submitting them to the DRA Government for the approval of the Council of Ministers.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, president of the Revolutionary Council Presidium

KARMAL CONGRATULATES GEORGIAN BODIES ON ANNIVERSARY

LD240936 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA, has sent a congratulatory message to the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and to the Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Georgian Communist Party. He said: On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, the Government of the DRA and the Afghan people, I convey warm and sincere congratulations to you on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Georgian Communist Party and of the Georgian SSR. He also said: This historic event is not only a tribute to the toiling, courageous and hospitable people of Georgia, but also to the toiling masses of the USSR and to all reliable friends of that country all over the world, among whom we can count the people of Afghanistan and their political vanguard, the PDPA. The great significance of your glorious festival has been attested to by the fact that it was attended by the greatest political personality of the contemporary era and the revolutionary, faithful and great friend of the people of Afghanistan, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Babrak Karmal added: I avail myself of this opportunity to convey my deepest gratitude to the first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and to all the hospitable people of Georgia who accorded us a warm and friendly welcome during our visit to your republic last October. I hope that the people of Georgia achieve new historic victories in the implementation of the resolutions of 26th CPSU Congress and that historic and beautiful Georgia continues to blossom. Long live pure friendship between our peoples.

RESOLUTION CALLS FOR INDIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM TALPATTY

BK290120 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] today unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon India to relieve forthwith all personnel, structures and material including flags and the remaining armed naval craft from the newly emerged South Talpatty Island. The resolution, moved by leader of the house Shah Azizur Rahman, expressed the profound shock and distress of the house and recorded a strong protest against the Indian action in the island in clear violation of the agreements and understanding reached between the two countries. It called upon the Indian Government to honor its commitment to resolve the issue at an early date peacefully in the spirit of understanding, cooperation and good neighborliness. It further called upon the Indian Government to resolve all outstanding problems between the two countries through discussion and friendly cooperation in accordance with their commitment to the principles of the UN Charter and nonalignment, and in the greater interest of peace and stability in the region.

Winding up the discussion on the resolution, Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman gave a clarion call to the people of the country to unite solidly to defend our territorial integrity at all costs. He said national unity is the only bulwark against expansionism, hegemonism and imperialism. Shah Aziz said although we are small, we are not [word indinstinct]. We firmly believe that all countries of the world, particularly the Muslim countries, will be with us in our struggle to establish our legitimate rights. He, however, said as a peaceful nation, Bangladesh prefers dialogue to confrontation, but the dialogue should not be submission to the will of any superpower. The leader of the house said Bangladesh is following a pragmatic and forward-looking foreign policy. It is because of this policy that our relations with the Muslim world are deepening and strengthening day by day.

Earlier, leader of the opposition Asaduzzaman Khan criticized the government for not taking appropriate and timely action in defending the island.

SRI LANKA FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES AS UN ENVOY

BK271327 Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 27 May 81

[Excerpt] Sri Lankan Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed arrived in Dacca this morning as the special UN envoy on a 2-day good-will visit to Bangladesh. Hameed is in the capital on the first leg of his nine-nation Asian tour to seek Bangladesh's support for the success of the UN conference of new resources of energy to be held in Nairobi in August this year. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq and Sri Lanka's high commissioner to Bangladesh.

Talking to newsmen at the airport the Sri Lankan foreign minister said he would (?seek) Bangladesh's participation at the highest level. He will also discuss with Bangladesh leaders matters of bilateral interest and other issues of common concern. He said: As there is very close and friendly ties between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, nothing prevents them from discussing anything of mutual interest.

During his stay in the capital he will have talks with the foreign minister, the petroleum minister and call on President Ziaur Rahman.

BANI-SADR HOLDS INSPECTION OF SHIRAZ BASE

LD281244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, Mr Bani-Sadr, the commander in chief of the armed forces, [words indistinct] arrived in Shiraz this morning accompanied by the defense minister in order to inspect Shiraz' 7th fighter airbase and also to look into the affairs of the war refugees. The commander in chief was welcomed by the governor general, commanders of the forces and the official in charge of the base's socioideological department. He subsequently inspected various parts of the base. Answering a question by the Central News Bureau correspondent about the fronts in the southern region of the country, Mr Bani-Sadr said that the recent success of our forces on the Allaho Akbar front greatly assisted our advance and was the cause of an enemy retreat. On that particular front we have come much closer to the border. An important part of the enemy forces has been destroyed and, what is more important, the morale of our forces has risen and we have also gained an interesting battle experience which we can use in the future.

During the conversation the commander in chief, talking about the recent victories, stated that, to be accurate, an area extending for about 220-25 km from Susangerd to (Mishida) has come under control of the forces of Islam. The commander in chief and the commander of the air force attended a meeting of the base personnel following their inspection tour. The head of the socioideological department at the airbase welcomed the commander in chief, following a recitation from the Koran, and then the base commander asked the commander in chief to present certificates of appreciation to chosen personnel of the base.

Speaks to Personnel

LD281746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 May 81

[Excerpt] According to PARS, President Bani-Sadr toured Shiraz' 7th fighter base and spoke to the airmen, air force technicians and NCO's. The commander in chief said in part:

In view of the difficult situation our country has been facing, the value of a committed man's work cannot be quantified. The measure of what you have done will be determined by God. Mr Bani-Sadr added: The West wanted us to think that we could not even have a drink of water without its assistance, let alone wage a war. How many wars in the Middle East have lasted more than a month? The enemy's ratio of strength at the beginning was 20 to 1, but has now been reduced to 3 to 1. However, in qualitative terms the ratio is in the reverse, in our favor.

The commander in chief said: If we manage to create an atmosphere wherein man's thought and action are free, then just as we succeeded in changing the course of the war we shall also be able to quickly determine the future of our country as well as that of the world.

Continuing his speech, Mr Bani-Sadr said: I am convinced that we shall also overcome our other problems and pave the path of the revolution.

ACTIVITIES OF 3-MAN MEDIATION COMMITTEE DETAILED

LD281218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] The three-man mediation committee had a meeting in the Interior Ministry building yesterday afternoon. At the end of the session the speaker for the committee, [Mohammad Yazdi], in an interview with a Central News Bureau correspondent, said concerning the matters discussed by the committee:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage indistinct]

The first matter was that since this year is the year of law, all authorities must try to do their work on the basis of law. Everyone must try to learn his legal rights, limits and duties. Even ordinary people should learn what the legal limitations and duties of officials are, and they should themselves be able to judge who is (?acting) according to his legal duties. Therefore, we want those in authority to be more aware of their legal duties.

The second matter was the atmosphere created by newspapers and writers forming in people's minds an impression of crisis and deadlock. Some think that there is a crisis in the country or that it is deadlocked. We should know that there is nothing of the sort, that the country is continuing on its natural course and the people are following the road they chose. In this connection it is natural that if some details have been discussed as points of disagreement or mistakes, then these should be referring to the authorities and dealt with by law, thus solving the problems.

Therefore, in our work this week--since Mr Eshraqi was ill--we did not have two sessions at the beginning of the week, and our first session on Tuesday was a meeting with Mr Bazargan who had taken his impressions of current affairs (?and problems) to the imam. The imam had told him to go and discuss the matter with the committee. According to prior agreement, we met Mr Bazargan on Tuesday and discussed his problems. In our long discussion with him we talked especially about one of his articles in MIZAN entitled "Who Should Go" and some other articles which emanated from his pen prior to the MIZAN article, all of them without doubt against the imam's decree and constituting sources of agitation and discord and, in the opinion of the committee, (?also containing) discussion of some subjects which are dangerous in the present circumstances. Our discussions were therefore lengthy and at the end he was officially determined as the responsible person and thus was officially warned to stop writing about such matters.

In today's session the first thing that was done was to write a letter to the prosecutor general. I now read the text of the letter:

Respected prosecutor general, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Musavi Ardabili, may your shadow extend. Respectfully following the letter--reference No 75, dated 22 April 1981--concerning violations by some newspapers and publications and with due consideration to the decree made by the imam to the effect that the prosecutor general has the duty to act on complaints or violations without prejudice, observing legal procedures and according to canonic and judicial principles, we request that you order a report on the actions taken so far to be forwarded to the committee.

This is because we had exposed some publications and newspapers and wanted results from him. The second item discussed today was the matter of complaints we had received about the Foreign Ministry documents which have become the topic of the day and (?also) the matter of the opponents. In this connection we read four very lengthy letters. The respected interior minister subsequently gave some explanations about the facts of the case but I cannot reveal the details of these explanations. They had a great effect on our general decision. At the end of the review of this matter we have two things to tell the noble and respected people and the authorities.

The first is that we should know that in connection with cases undergoing preliminary stages in the judiciary system, cases whose files are undergoing preparation in the prosecutor's office, we cannot allow ourselves to consider the defendant guilty or the case proven. This is definitely against the shariah and the law. I therefore officially give notice that what has been done--they assumed the arrested person to be a thief--is wrong and I warn that from now on in all cases and in every circumstance when there is discussion about the defendant of a case he should not be considered guilty and his crime proven prior to a court verdict.

The second matter concerned prejudgments made by the sides, each in their writings considering the others' actions to be illegal. We want those who consider themselves defenders of the law to show people by their actions that they defend the law and do not act against it. Such prejudgments were incorrect and should not have been made, especially since everyone knows that a matter which has a legal side can be looked into more accurately and in a better way if the atmosphere is calm and free of agitation. Then, judgment will automatically be more accurate. You know that Islam has asked the judge not to make a decision when he is tired, hungry or angry, and that to maintain absolute neutrality he should work in a completely tranquil atmosphere and away from any upsets. We therefore want those who have made such judgments in this matter to avoid doing the same so that such things may never again be repeated.

At the end, we had some letters which we reviewed. Some of them have been filed and some are being acted on.

I should also point out that the matter of the Foreign Ministry document was given priority because of its urgency and the requests made by the sides for priority action on it. Otherwise, we would have had other matters on our agenda. [end recording]

COUNCIL OF GUARDIANS ASKS REVIEW OF TAKEOVER BILL

LD280952 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 May 81

[Text of letter from Council of Guardians to Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani--date not given]

[Text] In His exalted name. Honorable speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly:

With reference to your letter No 689, dated 20 May 1981, the Council of Guardians, during its formal session, reviewed the government bill on granting permission to various ministries, banks and government institutions to take over units and institutions of the Ministry of Industry and Mining and units of the Iranian National Industrial Organization. The bill had been approved by the Majlis Industry and Mining Commission in accordance with article 85 of the Constitution. The views of the majority of the members of the Council of Guardians are as follows:

Since there are good reasons to believe that the originally approved bills and laws which this bill has referred to do not correspond to shariah regulations, then the named bill does not correspond with shariah regulations either. Would you please make arrangements to have the original laws and approved bills reviewed again and submitted to the Islamic Consultative Assembly as a draft bill after making necessary the amendments?

MAJLIS NOTES LACK OF ACTION, KHOMEYNI SPEECH

LD281244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 May 81

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Bureau, the Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session today. The session started at 0730 with the recitation of verses from the Koran. It was chaired by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Mr Mohammad Reza Babasafari, the deputy from (?Bokhar) was the first preagenda speaker today. He referred to the expansion of U.S. naval bases--naming a number of bases, including the Gwatar naval base, near southeastern Iranian territorial waters--as a warning to the Iranian Government. Babasafari also called for the improvement of relations between Iran and countries like Libya, Algeria and, especially, Syria.

The next speaker, Mr Mirza Hasan Yusofi, the deputy from Tonekabon, referring to yesterday's speech by the imam of the nation, said that during the past year, by approving less than 40 bills, we have not been able to fulfill the expectations of the imam and the public. He also proposed that the Majlis working hours be increased from 18 hours to 32 hours per week.

The last of today's preagenda speakers, Mr Qorban 'Ali Dorri, the deputy from (?Ardel), also referred to yesterday's speech by the imam. After praising the martyrs, the wounded and the disabled of the revolution and the war imposed by the traitorous and pagan regime of Iraq, he said that the university and the Qom religious seminary should reach a stage where the ulema and scientists of the East and the West should go to them in order to gain knowledge and science. He also expressed hope that the government and Mr Raja'i--as the supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs--should play an independent, Islamic and active role in the country's foreign policy and review the composition of Iran's embassies as soon as possible.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 516

LD281900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 May 81

[Communique 516 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in their fight against Saddam's defeated armed forces, achieved the following victories in the past 24 hours:

In a series of brave operations, combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, self-sacrificing warriors of the revolution guards corps, mobilization forces, Muslim Kurdish peshmerga and the heroic popular forces blocked all access roads to the Bani-Baynut garrison and opened heavy artillery fire on sensitive sections of this garrison. The garrison, comprising one large building and 14 other separate buildings, was completely set on fire by [word indistinct] of our combatants. Some of the garrison's personnel were killed or wounded; several went into the garrison's basement and continued their resistance.

Meanwhile, a reinforcement unit, (?together) with a reinforced company dispatched from Sayyid Sadiq, came under intense fire from the warriors of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. After suffering 50 dead, 70 wounded and having 2 men captured, this unit was completely routed and the rest of the enemy personnel fled. The enemy air support in these operations included two MiG's and four helicopters. The enemy air support was confronted by intense fire from our air defense forces and fled shortly after the operations began. One enemy helicopter was downed by the combative units of Islam and was blown up.

Our brave forces are in complete control of the above-mentioned region and are prepared for any combat.

The armed forces of Islam killed 18 enemy personnel in Dezavar and wounded 27. One enemy tank was also blown up after hitting a mine.

Artillery fire of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, directed against the Iraqi Biarreh garrison, destroyed one building and killed one enemy wireless operator. In the same region, one Iraqi military column moving from Kharmal toward Biarreh came under our forces' fire; several enemy vehicles were destroyed and the rest of the column was routed.

In the region of Halabjah, 5 of Saddam's soldiers were killed by our forces and 15 of them were wounded.

Yesterday, in the region of Dezli, five Iraqi personnel presented themselves to the forces of Islam and sought asylum.

Our forces have achieved victories on the southern fronts of the country, too. In the region of Dezful, our forces' mortar fire on enemy positions prevented enemy activity and our forces destroyed one enemy ammunition dump and four observation trenches with the forces deployed in them.

During another series of operations in the same region, 1 enemy tank, 3 vehicles, 1 ammunition dump and 2 trenches were destroyed: 5 Iraqi personnel were killed and 16 of them were wounded.

In the region west of Karkheh, our forces opened fire on the enemy, killing or wounding 25 of them; 3 enemy foxholes and 1 ammunition depot were destroyed and 7 tanks were damaged.

Helicopter gunships of the Airborne Division, during a reconnaissance flight in the region of (?Ahvaz), destroyed two tanks, one cannon, two vehicles carrying personnel and four trenches of the invaders. The warriors destroyed two enemy tanks and damaged two other tanks in the region of Mishu Dagh.

Thanks to the artillery fire of our forces on enemy positions in the region of Ahvaz, several enemy mortars with their servicemen and one ammunition vehicle of Saddam's forces were destroyed.

On the Abadan-Mahshahr front, seven trenches, one 106-mm gun, two mortar-launching trenches, two machineguns, two ammunition depots and one enemy personnel carrier were destroyed. In this region, several Iraqi aggressor planes were forced to flee the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran before being able to carry out any operations.

On 26 May on the country's southern and western battlefronts, 19 combatants of the Ground Forces and 2 warriors of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran remained true to their covenant of continuing the path of the martyrs and went to meet their God. May God's mercy and blessings be upon them all and may their path be followed by many others.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS CORPS REPORTS SITUATION IN WEST, SOUTH

LD281855 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 May 81

[Communique of the Public Relations Office of the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following the operations carried out by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, which were launched with the cooperation of the brave brothers from the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the other genuine combatants of Islam on the fronts of battle between faith and blasphemy, the following report is brought to the attention of our vigilant and responsible people on the situation on the battlefronts and the recent activities of these brave combatants:

A. The western fronts:

With the complete dominance of the combatants of Islam over the garrisons and bases of Saddam's army on the border strip, the enemy was forced to vacate all these places and retreat. On some border points our self-sacrificing forces have penetrated up to 7 km inside enemy territory so that, with our forces' harassing operations, the Ba'thist mercenaries' repeated aggression is prevented. On some border strips the enemy forces have retreated more than 17 km.

Yesterday on the (?Akhor) heights the brother guards and the Kurdish Muslim peshmerga, supported by the artillery fire of the army brothers, managed to kill 53 officers, NCO's and privates of Saddam's army.

With the observation of the brothers of the guards corps and the artillery fire of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the (?Rasam) garrison inside Iraqi territory was pounded; a large number of the Ba'thists' vehicles and some military buildings were destroyed. In addition, the guard devotees, by mining the (?Rasam) road in Iraq, destroyed one bulldozer and two Zil vehicles belonging to the blasphemous enemy; all occupants of the vehicles were killed.

During the siege of the Bani Baluch garrison in Iraq, the brave combatants of the army of Islam killed or captured a number of the Saddamists. In addition, one of the enemy's motor columns heading for this region in order to reinforce the mercenaries was completely annihilated by the fire of the combatants of Islam. On the Gilan-e Gharb fronts during the past 3 days, the guards' mortar fire destroyed 1 tank and 1 bulldozer belonging to the Ba'thists' blasphemous forces; more than 15 mercenaries were killed or injured.

On the (?Avadeh) front, a guerrilla group of guard brothers managed to destroy 1 enemy vehicle and kill 10 infidels.

B. The southern fronts:

On the Dasht-e 'Abbas front in the Dezful region, the guard brothers identified the enemy's supply route; the brothers destroyed three of the Ba'thist aggressors' vehicles, killing all of their occupants. In the occupied zone in Khuninshahr, exchanges of fire are continuing between the combatants of Islam and the Iraqi aggressive forces. Our brave forces are enjoying complete superiority.

This morning the funeral procession of seven self-sacrificing members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, who had achieved the honor of martyrdom on one of the western fronts, was gloriously held in the city of Sanandaj with the participation of the army and guard brothers and many Muslim people. May their message be perpetual and their path be followed by many.

[Signed] The Public Relations Office of the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Border Heights Purged

LD281146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 May 81

[Correspondent's dispatch from Kermanshah]

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps reports that in the western region of the country during a series of successful operations in the (Havarnama) area, one of the most important border heights, carried out yesterday by the Islamic revolution guard brothers from Paveh and Nowdesheh, supported by the artillery of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the heights were purged of the presence of Ba'thist and counter-revolutionary forces. The forces of Islam, which were carrying out the operations from two sides, met on the Paveh-Marivan front at the end of the purge operations. During the operations, a number of elements belonging to the Rastegari group and Iraqi Ba'thist lackeys were wounded or killed and a great amount of weapons and ammunition was captured from them.

Following this immense achievement by the revolution guard brothers, the infidel Iraqi forces opened mortar fire against Nowdesheh district and civilian houses. One woman and an innocent child were martyred and three other children were wounded. Two deceived democratic [Kurdish Democratic Party] members surrendered with two G-3 guns and one tranceiver to the Nowdesheh revolution guards and received amnesty papers.

Central News Bureau correspondents report that the battle between the fighters of God's way and the forces of Saddam at-Tikriti still continues on all the country's western fronts. During yesterday's battles, a number of enemy trenches and foxholes in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb and Meyhak were destroyed by the fire of Islam's defendants and a number of infidel forces were wounded or killed. On the Nowsud, Sumar, (Dek-e Zard), (Bang Sira), Chaghalvand, Mehran, Dehloran and Naft-e Shahr fronts the trenches, equipment and vehicles of the enemy came under the fire of Islam's fighters with the result that a number of vehicles, armored personnel carriers and three artillery, mortar and 106-mm enemy fieldguns were destroyed.

The deputy commander of the 81st Armored Division said in an interview with a Central News Bureau correspondent at 1115 today: Fire continues to be exchanged on all fronts, and the Islamic fighters enjoy firepower superiority.

RADIO IRAN RIDICULES REGIME'S COUP DISCLOSURE

NC271610 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 27 May 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Tehran's palace-dwelling (?hyenas) have started howling a new tune, a deceitful tune with sinister objectives--the slaughter of yet another group of Iranian patriots and freedom fighters.

A traitor called Reyshahri (?acting on behalf of Khomeyni) as head of the military courts--the same person who has issued death verdicts for hundreds of Iranian officers and NCO's so far and has sent them before the revolution guards' firing squads--has once again announced that a new coup plot has been uncovered and that 18 people have been arrested and the arrest of 250 to 300 others is imminent.

This announcement by the clerical regime should be assessed in depth from a number of points. The regime is shaky and faces the tempest of the people's rage, which is heading toward it from the four corners of Iran. In the last moments of its life and on the precipice of its (?downfall), the overpowered clerical regime is trying to terrify the people as it used to. Finally, the arbitrary and antinational regime is trying to find (?new) excuses, wishfully thinking that it can, on the one hand, occupy public opinion with a (?bit of fresh information) and, on the other, send hundreds of noble Iranians to the gallows.

With its bloody record of 2 years and some months, the regime speaks of a coup plot and about the "timely uncovering of it." As the regime's officials themselves have confessed, a number of civilians have been arrested and thrown into prisons and have afterwards announced that those arrested, and their collaborators, intended to create unrest, terrify the people and carry out a coup.

Is there any Iranian, in Iran or abroad, who will not ridicule this last futile attempt by the mullahs, and not once more speak of the charlatanism and hypocrisy of these quasi-clergy[word indistinct]? The number to date of those who have risen against this anti-Iranian regime is more than 18, 100, 1,000 or 1 million, the thought to overthrow this destructive regime is in the minds of millions of Iranians, who have manifested this fact in their demonstrations and armed struggles in the four corners of Iran. The extensive activities by hundreds of thousands of Iranians abroad, aimed at freeing Iran from the clutches of the pseudoclergy beasts, manifest unflinching and tireless efforts toward this national ideal. Therefore, gentlemen, you impostors ruling Tehran: If you say that (?there is a coup plot), then let us give you peace of mind and tell you that [words indistinct] the Iranian nation is unanimously involved in this coup.

Who can ignore the fact that you fear all the Iranian people and the Iranian Army? Who is unaware of the fact that you are being driven insane by the recent demonstrations in south Tehran, in Naziabad--where you claim that you support the helpless and suffering people? You have lost your last bases of deceit. Which people are you talking of, when you deem it necessary to send your mercenary revolution guards to crush these very "oppressed people of Naziabad?" Gentlemen, Naziabad, too, has risen against you and is not deceived by your propaganda, hypocrisy and [word indistinct] (?any longer). Kordestan, Azarbayjan, Baluchestan, Lorestan and Torkamansahra, too, have (?displayed their feelings). Oh, you pseudoclergy, the bazaaris cannot tolerate you. You are well aware of this and know better still that they, too, like the other Iranians, have put their strength to use, and are looking forward to the day when they will bury the corpse of your despicable rule. You can pull from your sleeve any trick you wish to terrify the people. But you should know that your futile efforts are in vain. [passage indistinct]

Shapur Bakhtiar and the National Resistance Movement of Iran [NRMI] see no government in front of them in order to think of carrying out a coup. That which is ruling Iran today is a sinister sedition, brought about by the blind (?invasion) of a bunch of treacherous idiots, who should be uprooted by the hands of all Iranian people. Shapur Bakhtiar and the NRMI are aware of your satanic objectives, which underly your impudent and inhuman act and [word indistinct] warns you that the (?killing) of another group of freedom-seekers on any pretext will only disgrace you more.

Shapur Bakhtiar, the NRMI leader, and his comrades-in-arm warn you in the name of the great Iranian nation that (?even if) hundreds of Iranians are killed, your inhuman act will neither crush nor silence the people of Naziabad, nor will it (?silence) the bazaaris of Tehran and other cities, as you hope it will. [passage indistinct]

RADIO IRAN REPORTS INFILTRATION OF FOREIGN SPIES

NC281610 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] On the basis of completely reliable information which we have received, hundreds of agents and spies of a foreign power have infiltrated our country during the recent days and have dispersed in the provinces of Azarbayjan, Gilan and Mazandaran.

These spies speak Azeri-Turkish and do not know Farsi. They have seldom been seen alone in gatherings and on the streets and are almost always accompanied by one or two Tudeh Party members.

Since Khomeyni's regime is incapable of controlling the country's borders and preserving national security, we warn all compatriots, especially the patriotic people in Azarbayjan, Gilan and Mazandaran, to beware of these foreign agents and do their best to identify and arrest them. Lack of attention to this extremely important matter will seriously endanger our homeland's independence and unity. [This item is repeated several times throughout the program as a station announcement].

NVOI DEMANDS END TO ANTI-AFGHAN ACTIVITIES

TA282217 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 28 May 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Supporting of the Gang of Burhanuddin Rabbani Is an Insult to the Islamic Republic of Iran"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: According to reports, Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of the U.S.-made counterrevolutionary group, the so-called Jami'at-e Eslami Afghanistan, following meetings with Anwar as-Sadat and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in Egypt, has intensified his anti-Iranian and anti-Afghan activities in our country.

Without doubt, our country's authorities are also aware that the presence of the Burhanuddin Rabbani gang in our country's border areas with Pakistan is in fact an element for implementing the satanic and anti-Iranian plans of U.S. imperialism.

According to evidence and documents, Burhanuddin Rabbani--this subservient agent of U.S. imperialism and regional reaction--has transplanted the office of his organization's professional killers into our country's territory. These so-called Islamic professional killers are actively engaged in implementing the plan of their overlords and in fanning bloody clashes between the Shi'ites and Sunnis in Sistan va Baluchestan, a plan which was designed at the At-Ta'if conference.

Among the tasks entrusted to these Afghan professional killers is the dismemberment of Iran's Baluchestan from the territory of our homeland and fulfillment of the American plan for the establishment of a so-called independent Baluchestan and its ultimate unity with Pakistan through the cooperation of the local khans, sardars and feudalists. Apart from smuggling narcotics and weapons, robbery, looting and murder--which is the daily activity of the Afghan refugees in our country--the fact that they actively participate in creating clashes between the Shi'ites and Sunnis and strive hand in hand with the armed mercenaries of the region's sardars, khans and feudalists in the dismemberment of Iran, places this urgent task of closing down the office of these murderers before the responsible authorities.

The official authorities and the guards headquarters in Sistan va Baluchestan Province, in their reports, have repeatedly pointed out this subversive and anti-Iranian activity by the Afghan fugitives in our country, and have demanded that an end be put to this counterrevolutionary and anti-Iranian activity by the Afghan fugitive criminals and smugglers in Iran. Not a day passes without our newspapers, too, publishing certain items in this connection and urging an end to the activity of the Afghan fugitives in our country.

The scandal of the anti-Iranian activity of the Afghan fugitives in Sistan va Baluchestan has reached such a stage that recently in the Islamic Consultative Assembly as well Mr Tatari, the Zahedan deputy, during a speech exposed the subversive activities of these espionage and murderous groups and revealed some of the crimes and anti-Iranian activities of these so-called Afghan Islamic mojahedin. During remarks at the Majlis, Mr Tatari noted that the so-called Afghan Islamic mojahedin--and in fact these criminals and smugglers--operate hand in hand with the bands of local feudalists and the leaders of the tribes. At the same time in these operations the emphasis is not only on fanning the Sunni-Shi'ite dispute but also on the independence of Baluchestan. By taking into consideration this counterrevolutionary and anti-Iranian activity of the Afghan groupings, and particularly Burhanuddin Rabbani's group, Mr Tatari rightly called them the agents of the United States and demanded that an end be put to the activity of these reactionary bands in Sistan va Baluchestan, that our country's borders in this region be placed under practical surveillance and that provocative and counterrevolutionary activity in the region be prevented.

What has been stated in Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly regarding the provocative, counterrevolutionary and anti-Iranian activity of the American-Afghan murderers contained nothing new for the people of our homeland. The people are, more or less, aware of these subversive activities and have always demanded and continue to demand that these gangs of Afghan professional killers be confronted with revolutionary decisiveness. However, unfortunately, despite so much evidence regarding the anti-Iranian activities of the Afghan fugitives--this fifth column of U.S. imperialism in our country--certain individuals, even in the upper echelons, do not refrain from supporting these murderers and continue to protect and back them, apparently under the pretext that these Afghan murderers have placed the name of Islam upon themselves. These individuals, without considering the fact that the subversive activities of this corrupt Afghan gang causes the disgrace of our revolution and revolutionary country, have even established a camp for them and supply them with all kinds of assistance for their subversive activities against the Afghan people and government.

The Iranian people condemn such unjustifiable acts and emphatically demand that these American mercenaries be (?expelled) and that an end be put to the activity of these murderers and counterrevolutionaries in our country.

NVOI URGES PROSECUTION OF MIZAN OFFICIALS

TA271933 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 27 May carried a commentary entitled "MIZAN's Harmony With the Mouthpieces of Imperialism and Zionism." It said: On the eve of the [anniversary of the] inauguration of the Islamic Consultative Assembly the deputies of the Majlis were received by the imam. During this meeting, first Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker, submitted a brief report to the imam on the current duties of the Majlis. Then, during remarks to the Majlis deputies of the imam of the nation reaffirmed that the Majlis was the highest authority in the country. The imam called those individuals who want to weaken the Majlis corrupt, and said that such an individual should be prosecuted as corrupt on earth.

As we are aware, these days the mouthpieces of imperialism and Zionism, and the counterrevolution within and abroad, have aimed the fire of their artillery at the Islamic Consultative Assembly. Why? The fact is that this Majlis has, on the whole, been able to reflect the distinct and outstanding aspects of the demands of the Iranian nation within the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line. This is a thorn in the side of imperialism, the counterrevolution, the road-roller liberals and the American Maoists. These forces have directed all their efforts at weakening revolutionary authority, particularly the Majlis.

In this connection, the fact should not be concealed from the people that the counter-revolution, the liberals, the Maoists and multicolored groupings have each been able in some way to exploit to the utmost the weakness of egocentrism in some of the government figures, especially President Bani-Sadr. For example, these days the president has once again accused the Majlis and the deputies of trying to weaken his position as the chief of the executive branch, thus, handing an excuse to the propaganda organizations of imperialism, from the VOA to the BBC, from Bakhtiar's radio to Israel radio and even to Mr Bazargan's MIZAN, to expose the Majlis to attacks. The MIZAN newspaper, referring to the failure of the three-man committee for resolving differences among government figures, writes that the country no longer has any hope of mutual understanding among government figures.

Then it bluntly writes that in order to resolve differences one of the sides in the dispute should leave the scene, believing that this side should be the Majlis. Is the plot of removing the Majlis from the political scene and its dissolution not weakening revolutionary authority and the Majlis--a Majlis that, according to the imam, is the highest authority in the country? Are not the managers of MIZAN, their colleagues and allies those very individuals who, according to the imam, are corrupt, and should they not be prosecuted as corrupt on earth? The answer to this is with the revolution's prosecutor and country's judicial authorities who should deal with these so-called defenders of freedom.

BRIEFS

NEW MAMASANI GOVERNOR--Mohandas Karamatollah Behdar has been appointed governor of Mamasani and assumed charge of his duties today. [Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 24 May 81 GF]

NEW SHIRAZ MAYOR--Abol Qasem Khwarazmi, the administrative and revenue officer of Shiraz municipality, has assumed duties as mayor of Shiraz, according to a report from the Fars governor general's office. [Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 23 May 81 GF]

SRI LANKA

OUTCOME OF ASIAN MEDIA CONFERENCE REPORTED

BK281541 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 28 May 81

[By Dalton da Silva]

[Text] Colombo, 28 May (AFP)--A top level four-day conference of Asian media personnel ended here today emphasizing that the role of Asian news agencies is to narrow the information imbalance and not to supplant transnational news agencies.

Conference spokesman Sarath Amunugama, secretary to Sri Lanka's Ministry of State (Broadcasting and Information) said delegates agreed there was no information imbalance and they emphasized that the role of Asian news agencies was to narrow this imbalance rather than to make rhetorical attacks against transnational news agencies.

The conference was attended by secretaries of Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and heads of national news agencies of eleven Asian countries--Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The conference, jointly sponsored by Sri Lanka's Ministry of State, the national news agency "Lankapuwath" and the Singapore-based Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre (AMIC), discussed news exchanges among Asian countries.

Mr. Amunugama said that the conference took note of complaints that Asian news agencies tended to carry an overload of governmental news. The delegates felt that a solution to this was not to impose more governmental control but to allow more professionalism. They agreed that the professionals in news agencies should be given greater discretion in the reporting of news.

The conference also decided to recommend to the governments of the participating countries that the tariff for news transmission via satellite should be reduced to U.S. $200 per month as recommended by the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO).

It noted that so far only Sri Lanka had reduced the tariff to this level and that unless countries in the region gave concessionary tariffs, talk about regional news exchanges would be more in the nature of rhetoric.

It was also agreed that Sri Lanka's minister in charge of information and broadcasting should write to his counterparts in other Asian countries requesting a lowering of their tariffs. A similar communication was to be sent by the Organisation of Asian News Agencies (OANA) to its members.

The conference also decided to give OANA greater organizational strength and it was agreed that the present practice of rotating the headquarters of this organisation should be ended and that it be given a permament headquarters.

The conference also discussed matters concerning the training of journalists, their wages and conditions of service, the spokesman said.